January 16, 1959

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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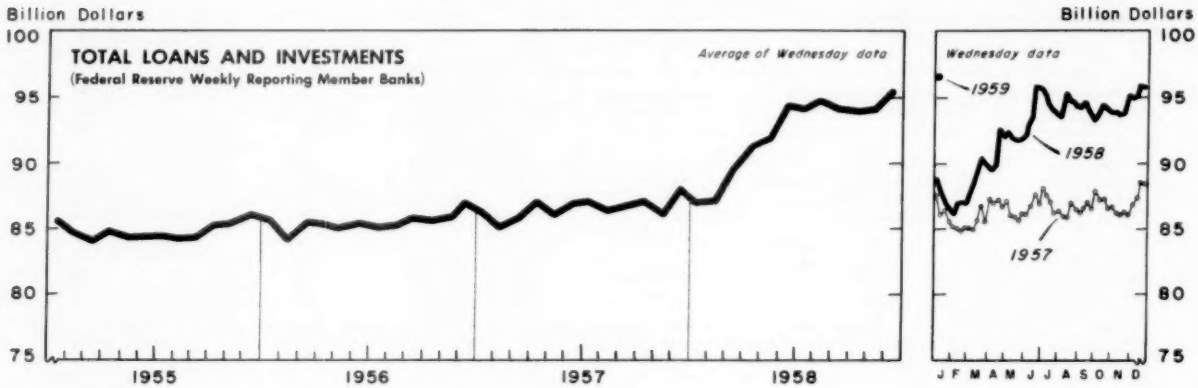
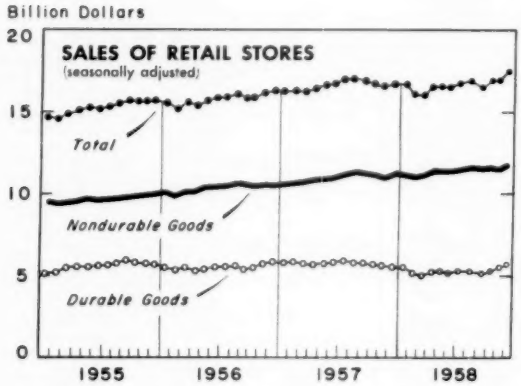
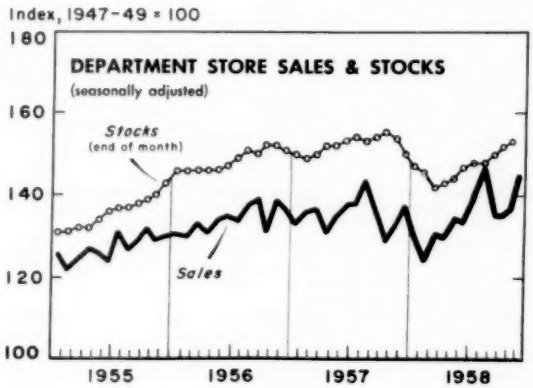
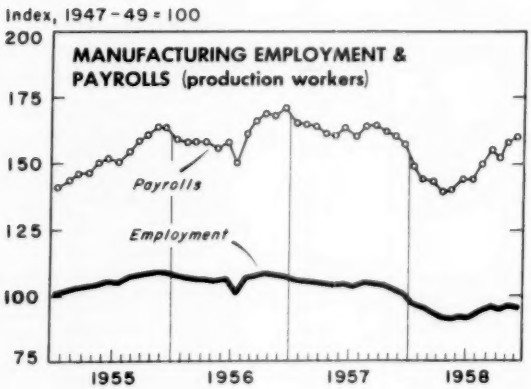
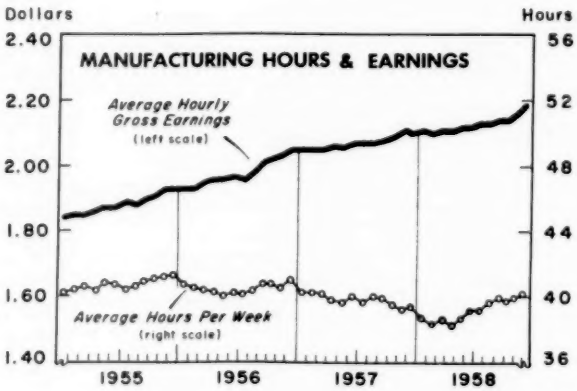
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1958				1959	
	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3	Jan. 10
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*118.5	119.1	119.3	119.3	119.2
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.6	90.6	91.3	91.1	91.0
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*107.4	108.7	108.7	108.6	108.4
All other.....do....	.....	*126.1	127.1	127.2	127.2	127.2
22 commodities 2/.....do....	84.3	84.8	86.1	86.1	85.6	85.6
Department store sales.....do....	102	116	304	205	105	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,992	3,048	**2,112	**2,430	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	2,770	2,823	1,918	2,202	.....	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	203	324	251	185	169	321
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,962	31,553	32,394	32,533	32,456	32,008
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	26,623	26,100	28,311	28,889	28,910	28,275
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,707	19,658	18,844	19,160	19,167	19,131
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	665	676	487	632	672	575
Reporting member banks (of F.R.System) in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,887	56,356	59,450	58,501	59,065	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	24,342	24,314	28,007	28,212	28,338	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	88,987	87,744	95,982	95,905	96,562	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	26,423	26,087	31,901	31,886	31,897	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	32,237	31,651	31,181	31,150	31,411	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,761	8,750	9,580	9,596	9,591	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.17	4.13	4.38	4.39	4.40	4.40
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	39.99	40.99	53.98	54.11	55.21	54.89
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	42.86	43.93	57.64	57.74	58.97	58.51
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,405	1,465	1,505	1,243	1,391	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,692	12,506	13,534	12,379	12,364	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	89,470	138,068	159,369	120,119	111,501	156,613
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,863	6,850	7,097	7,129	7,122	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,501	1,515	2,011	1,840	2,058	2,085
Percent of capacity.....	55.6	56.1	74.5	68.2	76.2	#73.6
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	472	569	571	432	468	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	242	283	288	220	244	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning January 12, 1959: Production, 2,123 thous. short tons; operating rate, 75.0 percent. * Monthly index for December 1957. ** Excludes 377,000 and 382,000 insured unemployed reported under temporary programs (TUC) for December 20 and 27, respectively; includes claims under Ex-Servicemen's Unemployment Compensation Act of 1958 (UCX) effective October 27, 1958. # Beginning January 5, 1959, rate is based on January 1, 1959, annual capacity (147,633,670 tons); not comparable with earlier rates which are based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1957		1958			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
COMMODITY PRICES						
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept. of Commerce index)..1935-39=100..	217.4	217.2	220.7	220.3	220.8	.....
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts in 48 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	2,371	1,982	3,216	3,309	2,594	.....
Building, total.....do....	1,808	1,457	2,353	2,550	1,981	.....
Construction cost index:						
Department of Commerce, composite.....1947-49=100..	138	137	139	r139	139	.....
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores: 1/						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	17,133	19,844	16,326	17,360	r17,039	21,096
Durable-goods stores.....do....	5,514	5,999	5,080	5,379	r5,343	6,313
Automotive group.....do....	2,977	3,009	2,447	2,613	r2,756	3,172
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	962	1,144	850	932	r937	1,186
Lumber, building, hardware group.....do....	903	858	1,038	1,083	929	931
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	11,619	13,844	11,246	11,981	r11,695	14,783
Apparel group.....do....	1,140	1,790	1,042	1,135	r1,119	1,892
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	532	690	538	556	r541	710
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,205	1,238	1,276	1,280	r1,204	1,252
Food group.....do....	4,233	4,258	4,068	4,344	r4,188	4,451
Gasoline service stations.....do....	1,262	1,286	1,346	1,384	r1,338	1,361
General-merchandise group.....do....	2,008	3,095	1,781	1,932	r2,018	3,387
Estimated sales (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....	16,562	16,846	16,562	16,941	r16,961	17,484
Durable-goods stores.....do....	5,606	5,588	5,095	5,374	r5,521	5,734
Automotive group.....do....	3,159	3,087	2,600	2,819	2,906	.....
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	870	895	858	871	883	.....
Lumber, building, hardware group.....do....	874	877	926	940	942	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	10,956	11,257	11,468	11,567	r11,441	11,750
Apparel group.....do....	1,007	1,087	1,042	1,068	1,033	.....
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	551	546	563	568	565	.....
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,233	1,226	1,221	1,244	1,232	.....
Food group.....do....	4,028	4,135	4,169	4,187	4,215	.....
Gasoline service stations.....do....	1,254	1,260	1,338	1,358	1,342	.....
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,704	1,801	1,817	1,805	1,777	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for December 1958 are advance estimates.

ITEM	1957		1958			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores, estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total ... mil. of dol.	25,280	23,430	23,680	24,160	24,890	.....
Durable-goods stores ... do.	11,060	10,880	10,110	10,120	10,600	.....
Nondurable-goods stores ... do.	14,220	12,550	13,570	14,040	14,290	.....
Adjusted, total ... do.	24,330	24,470	23,680	23,470	23,660	.....
Durable-goods stores ... do.	11,220	11,420	10,480	10,260	10,440	.....
Nondurable-goods stores ... do.	13,110	13,050	13,200	13,210	13,220	.....
Retail firms with 4 or more stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total ... do.	4,432	5,508	4,128	4,533	4,483	.....
Retail firms with 11 or more stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total ... do.	3,806	4,722	3,566	3,907	3,865	.....
Apparel group ... do.	244	386	239	251	258	.....
Drug and proprietary stores ... do.	87	133	90	93	92	.....
Eating and drinking places ... do.	71	74	74	76	73	.....
Furniture, homefurnishings stores ... do.	42	44	41	47	47	.....
General-merchandise group ... do.	1,239	1,903	1,112	1,216	1,260	.....
Grocery stores ... do.	1,579	1,518	1,461	1,648	1,567	.....
Lumber, building-materials dealers ... do.	58	50	75	78	69	.....
Tire, battery, accessory stores ... do.	67	93	69	76	72	.....
Estimated sales (seasonally adjusted), total ... do.	3,463	3,619	3,685	3,695	3,698	.....
Apparel group ... do.	220	239	237	235	240	.....
Drug and proprietary stores ... do.	90	91	94	94	97	.....
Eating and drinking places ... do.	73	72	71	73	74	.....
Furniture, homefurnishings stores ... do.	35	37	43	40	42	.....
General-merchandise group ... do.	1,043	1,099	1,134	1,134	1,102	.....
Grocery stores ... do.	1,471	1,500	1,555	1,570	1,573	.....
Lumber, building-materials dealers ... do.	58	61	64	67	71	.....
Tire, battery, accessory stores ... do.	68	69	73	74	76	.....
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total ... bil. of dol.	11.1	10.7	11.9	12.8	11.5	.....
Durable-goods establishments ... do.	3.9	3.7	4.4	4.7	4.2	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments ... do.	7.1	7.0	7.5	8.1	7.3	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total ... do.	13.0	12.5	11.7	11.9	12.0	.....
Durable-goods establishments ... do.	6.6	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments ... do.	6.4	6.1	5.6	5.8	5.9	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force, total ... thousands	68,061	67,770	68,740	69,111	68,485	68,081
Employed ... do.	64,873	64,396	64,629	65,306	64,653	63,973
Agricultural employment ... do.	5,817	5,385	6,191	6,404	5,695	4,871
Nonagricultural employment ... do.	59,057	59,012	58,438	58,902	58,958	59,102
Unemployed ... do.	3,188	3,374	4,111	3,805	3,833	4,108
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor) ... do.	52,316	52,610	51,237	r51,138	r51,378	p51,825
Manufacturing ... do.	16,561	16,302	15,755	r15,536	r15,765	p15,715
Mining ... do.	793	788	711	r708	r712	p712
Contract construction ... do.	2,805	2,612	2,927	r2,887	r2,786	p2,486
Transportation and public utilities ... do.	4,114	4,094	3,886	r3,897	r3,886	p3,886
Wholesale and retail trade ... do.	11,557	12,076	11,151	r11,225	r11,373	p11,929
Finance, insurance, and real estate ... do.	2,360	2,353	2,392	r2,380	r2,377	p2,372
Service and miscellaneous ... do.	6,367	6,318	6,472	r6,463	6,424	p6,382
Government ... do.	7,759	8,067	7,943	r8,040	r8,055	p8,343
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total ... do.	12,694	12,449	11,940	r11,721	r11,960	p11,908
Durable-goods industries ... do.	7,322	7,153	6,579	r6,421	r6,721	p6,728
Ordnance and accessories ... do.	70	69	68	67	r73	p73
Lumber and wood products (except furniture) ... do.	570	549	590	r594	r578	p560
Furniture and fixtures ... do.	314	309	310	313	r312	p307
Stone, clay, and glass products ... do.	453	440	438	r422	r431	p431
Primary metal industries ... do.	1,030	1,006	897	r899	r927	p943
Fabricated metal products 1/ ... do.	895	875	822	r791	r825	p823
Machinery (except electrical) ... do.	1,179	1,159	1,007	r1,005	r1,024	p1,032
Electrical machinery ... do.	851	825	762	746	r787	p787
Transportation equipment ... do.	1,337	1,350	1,100	r992	r1,176	p1,197
Instruments and related products ... do.	223	220	205	207	r208	p211
Nondurable-goods industries ... do.	5,372	5,296	5,361	r5,300	r5,239	p5,180
Food and kindred products ... do.	1,068	1,027	1,178	r1,115	r1,048	p989
Tobacco manufactures ... do.	88	89	96	r94	r84	p82
Textile-mill products ... do.	895	885	860	r863	r868	p861
Apparel and other finished textile products ... do.	1,066	1,055	1,055	r1,051	r1,053	p1,057
Paper and allied products ... do.	458	455	447	r447	r446	p443
Printing, publishing, and allied products ... do.	559	557	548	551	r549	p553
Chemicals and allied products ... do.	537	533	511	r517	r516	p516
Products of petroleum and coal ... do.	166	163	158	r153	r157	p156
Rubber products ... do.	209	208	188	r195	r196	p197
Leather and leather products ... do.	327	326	321	315	r324	p326
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted ... 1947-49=100	102.6	100.6	96.5	94.8	r96.7	p96.3
Seasonally adjusted ... do.	101.8	100.3	94.8	93.4	r95.9	p95.9
Payrolls, unadjusted ... do.	160.7	157.3	155.7	r152.5	r158.1	p160.1
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing ... hours	39.3	39.4	39.9	r39.8	39.9	p40.2
Durable-goods industries ... do.	39.7	39.7	40.2	r40.1	r40.3	p40.7
Nondurable-goods industries ... do.	38.8	39.0	39.5	r39.4	r39.4	p39.6

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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ITEM	1957		1958			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Hours and earnings - Continued						
Average weekly gross earnings, all manufacturing...dollars..	82.92	82.74	85.39	r85.17	86.58	p88.04
Durable-goods industries.....do....	88.93	88.93	92.46	r91.83	r93.90	p95.65
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	74.11	74.88	77.03	r76.83	r77.22	p78.01
Average hourly gross earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	2.11	2.10	2.14	2.14	2.17	p2.19
Durable-goods industries.....do....	2.24	2.24	2.30	2.29	2.33	p2.35
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	2.40	2.42	2.50	2.50	r2.51	p2.53
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	1.84	1.83	1.94	r1.95	r1.92	p1.90
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.76	1.77	1.80	1.79	r1.79	p1.79
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	2.11	2.10	2.16	2.11	r2.15	p2.16
Primary metal industries.....do....	2.54	2.55	2.73	2.74	r2.75	p2.75
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	2.23	2.22	2.29	2.28	r2.31	p2.33
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	2.33	2.34	2.39	r2.39	r2.42	p2.44
Electrical machinery.....do....	2.10	2.11	2.16	2.15	2.18	p2.19
Transportation equipment.....do....	2.50	2.48	2.55	2.55	r2.63	p2.66
Instruments and related products.....do....	2.13	2.14	2.22	2.21	r2.22	p2.23
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.91	1.92	1.95	1.95	1.96	p1.97
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.96	1.97	1.99	r2.00	r2.04	p2.06
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.54	1.54	1.50	r1.52	r1.61	p1.65
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.51	1.50	1.51	1.52	1.52	p1.52
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1.50	1.50	1.53	1.53	1.52	p1.52
Paper and allied products.....do....	2.08	2.08	2.14	2.14	2.15	p2.16
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	2.52	2.54	2.62	r2.63	r2.63	p2.65
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	2.26	2.26	2.34	2.34	2.35	p2.36
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	2.73	2.73	2.76	2.74	2.77	p2.77
Rubber products.....do....	2.33	2.31	2.39	2.39	r2.41	p2.43
Leather and leather products.....do....	1.57	1.56	1.58	1.58	1.59	p1.60
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	2.2	1.7	4.0	r3.4	p2.7	.....
Separation rate, total.....do....	4.0	3.8	3.5	r3.2	p2.7	.....
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2	.....
Lay-off.....do....	2.7	2.7	1.6	r1.7	p1.6	.....
Quit.....do....	.9	.7	1.5	1.1	p.8	.....
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron and steel scrap:						
Production and receipts, total.....thous. of short tons..	5,291	4,779	5,113	r5,700	p5,669	.....
Home scrap produced.....do....	3,350	3,009	2,945	r3,313	p3,154	.....
Purchased scrap received (net).....do....	1,941	1,770	2,168	r2,388	p2,516	.....
Consumption, total.....do....	5,442	4,795	5,009	r5,702	p5,382	.....
Stocks, consumers', end of month.....do....	8,968	8,949	9,014	r9,008	p9,297	.....
Steel products, net shipments:						
Total (all grades).....do....	5,606	5,093	5,386	6,225	5,187	.....
Plates.....do....	462	636	394	461	452	.....
Bars and tool steel, total.....do....	783	645	810	887	821	.....
Pipe and tubing.....do....	736	653	561	625	533	.....
Sheets and strips (incl. electrical), total.....do....	2,113	1,831	2,102	2,338	2,317	.....
PETROLEUM, COAL, AND PRODUCTS						
Coal, production:						
Anthracite.....thous. of short tons..	1,928	1,826	2,084	1,999	1,585	2,324
Bituminous.....do....	38,508	37,163	35,960	r39,400	c33,810	38,230

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. c/ Corrected. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.
USCOMM-DC-9215

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